

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2177

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO

SUBJ: CHAIRMAN MENGISTU WARNS SOMALIA AND THREATENS TO
STRIKE WITHIN LATTER'S BORDERS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2165 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO EASTERN FRONT, PROVISIONAL MILITARY
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (DIRG) CHAIRMAN LT COL MENGISTU
HAILE-MARIAM TOLD RALLY IN JIJIGA THAT IN FACE OF CONTINUING
SOMALI PROVOCATIONS ETHIOPIA MAY BE COMPELLED TO STRIKE AT
SOURCE OF DESTRUCTION AND CONSPIRACY WITHIN SOMALIA. NOTING
THAT SOMALIA HAS NOT YET RENOUNCED ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
ON ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND DJIBOUTI,
MENGISTU SAID SOMALIA IS STOCKPILING ITS WAR ARSENAL THROUGH
ACTIVE COOPERATION OF IMPERIALIST CAMP TO LAUNCH ANOTHER
INVASION AGAINST ETHIOPIA WHEN OPPORTUNITY PERMITS. MENGISTU
AVOIDED ANY DIRECT REFERENCE TO US, NATO, SAUDI ARABIA OR
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IRAN, LENDING SOME SUPPORT TO SPECULATION THAT MORE NON-
ALIGNED TREND FOR ETHIOPIAN COULD BE DEVELOPING. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN HIS STRONGEST SPEECH AGAINST
SOMALIA SINCE DEFEAT OF REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS IN OGADEN,
CHAIRMAN MENGISTU RECOUNTED INITIAL SOMALI TACTICS OF IN-
TIMIDATING AND KILLING PEASANTS IN HARARGHE REGION AND RE-

CRUITING FORMER LANDLORDS AS MILITARY OFFICERS TO CONDUCT WAR. HE LAID BLAME FOR OGADEN INVASION TO SOMALI RULING CLASS AND SIAD BARRE, AVOIDING ALL PAST ALLEGATIONS THAT IT WAS NATO-INSPIRED OR US-INSTIGATED. MENGISTU SAID MOGADISCIO RULING CLASSES COULD NO LONGER MISLEAD PROGRESSIVE FORCES. SHE HAS NOT YET RENOUNCED HER CLAIMS ON ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY NOR RECOGNIZED INVIOABILITY OF ETHIOPIA'S UNITY. MENGISTU POINTED OUT THAT "NOTWITHSTANDING CLAIM THAT IT HAS WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS, FACT REMAINS ENEMY IS BEING DEPLOYED IN DIFFERENT GUISE AND ETHIOPIAN BLOOD IS BEING WANTONLY SHED AS RESULT."

2. HE CONTINUED, SOMALIA PERSISTS IN INTERFERRING POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ITS AIR FORCE VIOLATES ETHIOPIAN AIR SPACE DAILY AND IT IS MOBILIZING, ARMING AND INFILTRATING ELEMENTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY POPULAR REVOLUTION. MOGADISCIO IS MOUNTING MAJOR EFFORT TO DIVIDE HARARGHE RESIDENTS ALONG RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC LINES. TO THESE ENDS MENGISTU CLAIMED, "DEMENTED SOMALI LEADERSHIP" CONTINUES TO STOCKPILE ITS WAR ARSENAL THROUGH ACTIVE COOPERATION OF IMPERIALIST CAMP. EGYPTIAN, PAKISTANI AND IRAQI TROOPS WITH MILITARY ADVISERS AND EXPERTS FROM LIKE-MINDED POWERS ARE NOW IN SOMALIA READY TO STRIKE ETHIOPIA WHEN OPPORTUNITY PERMITS, WHILE OTHER REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES ARE ON STAND-BY BASIS TO INTERVENE, MENGISTU ALLEGED.

3. HE WENT ON, "OUR TEMPORARY VICTORY SHOULD BY NO MEANS
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LEND ITSELF TO SMUG COMPLACENCY. NO SECTOR OF POPULACE CAN FEEL SENSE OF SECURITY AND WELL-BEING WHILE ANOTHER IS BLED." HE STATE, REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF THOSE VICTIMIZED BY UNPROVOKED AND BRUTAL WAR OF AGGRESSION IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY. HE ADDED, NOW IS TIME TO FORMULATE FUTURE COURSES OF ACTION FOR GREATER AND LASTING VICTORY OVER OUR ENEMIES. MAXIMUM EFFORT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO POLITICIZE, ORGANIZE AND ARM OGADEN INHABITANTS SO THEY CAN DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST INVADERS AND INFILTRATORS.

4. MENGISTU THEN CAUTIONED THAT "ETHIOPIA'S PATIENCE WITH EXPANSIONIST ADVENTURISM OF REACTIONARY SOMALI REGIMES BEING EXHAUSTED AND IT IS HIGH TIME ENEMY RECOGNIZED ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND WOKE UP TO FACT ETHIOPIA CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO WAGE WAR OF SELF-DEFENSE WITHIN CONFINES OF ITS BORDERS." HE CONTINUED BY STRONGLY WARNING THAT "UNLESS OUR ENEMIES DESIST FORTHWITH FROM UNDERMINING BROAD MASSES OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND TAKE THEIR HAND OFF REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA, WE WILL BE FORCED TO DRY UP WELL OF TROUBLE AT ITS SOURCE."

5. MENGISTU ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO USSR, CUBA,

GDR AND PDRY FOR MATERIAL, MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT DURING WAR OF AGGRESSION. HE ALSO NOTED REVOLUTIONARY FORCES WERE NOW BEING DEPLOYED ON NORTHERN FRONT, WHICH IS ETHIOPIA'S CURRENT AREA OF PREOCCUPATION. ONCE THAT ISSUE IS SETTLED, MENGISTU ASSERTED, PRODUCTIVE ENERGY OF PEOPLE WILL BE TURNED TO NATION-BUILDING AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2177

LIMIDIS

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL/LIMDIS: FOLLOWING VICTORY IN MARCH OVER GEGULAR SOMALI FORCES, IT IS BELIEVED THERE WAS FAIR DEGREE OF PRESSURE WITHIN DIRG TO PURSUE SOMALI TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT ACROSS BORDER AND DELIVER KNOCK-OUT BLOW TO ANY FURTHER SOMALI OFFENSIVE CAPACITY. MENGISTU APPARENTLY RESISTED THIS, POSSIBLY WITH SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT INSIDE DIRG, PERHAPS IN HOPE OF PRESERVING ETHIOPIA'S INTERNATIONALLY DEFENSIBLE POSITION. HAVING RESISTED "HOT PURSUIT" POLICY EARLIER, MENGISTU MAY NOW BE UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO JUSTIFY BENEFITS OF HIS DECISION IN FACE OF INCREASINGLY VIOLENT SOMALI PROVOCATIONS. THUS, ONE OF REASONS FOR MENGISTU'S VISIT TO EASTERN FRONT PAST 5 DAYS MAY BE TO REASSESS HIS EARLIER DECISION.

7. DELETION OF PREVIOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US, NATO, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN FOR DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUPPORT OF SOMALIA, AND INCLUSION OF STAUNCH SOVIET ALLY IRAQ FOR LENDING ITS TROOPS TO CURRENT SOMALI EFFORTS, APPEAR TO FIT IN WITH RECENT ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO "BALANCE" ITS RELATIONS AND ASSUME MORE NON-ALIGNED POSTURE. IT ALSO SUPPORTS SIGNAL

FROM FONMIN FELEKE THAT "US HAS ROLE TO PLAY IN ETHIO-
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PIA". ONE MIGHT SPECULATE THAT CAUSE FOR EARLIER ATTACKS ON
US POLICY TOWARD OGADEN CONFLICT WAS TO ASSURE ETHIOPIA BEYOND
DOUBT FULL MILITARY SUPPORT OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS. NOW THAT
ETHIOPIA HAS ACHIEVED THAT OBJECTIVE SHE MAY BE ATTEMPTING
TO GAIN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR LONG TERM SOLUTION
TO OGADEN PROBLEM.

8. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ETHIOPIA TO
LAUNCH SUCCESSFUL LIGHTNING STRIKE GROUND OFFENSIVE INSIDE
SOMALIA AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER IT COULD CONDUCT ALMOST UN-
RESTRICTED AIR SORTIES AGAINST HARGESIA AND BERBERA TO IN-
FLICT HEAVY DAMAGES. LONGER RANGE (1-3 MONTHS) GROUND OFFEN-
SIVE WOULD HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCESS. WHILE EMBASSY ADDIS
CANNOT FULLY AND ACCURATELY ASSESS SOMALIA'S MOTIVES FOR
HEAVILY SUPPORTING GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN OGADEN AT THIS
TIME WITH BOTH MEN AND MATERIAL DESPITE OVERWHELMING ETHIO-
PIAN MANPOWER AND MATERIAL ADVANTAGES, IT SEEMS JUST POSSIBLE
FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE THAT SIAD IS ATTEMPTING TO PROVOKE AN
ETHIOPIAN ATTACK INTO SOMALIA. THIS WOULD THEN SERVE TO JUST-
IFY POSSIBLE CALL FOR EGYPTIAN, SAUDI, IRANIAN, ETC. TROOPS
"TO DEFEND SOMALIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY", WHICH ETHIOPIA
HAS THUS FAR RESPECTED SCRUPULOUSLY, AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS
REQUEST FOR "DEFENSIVE" WEAPONS, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, TANKS
AND ARTILLERY. END CONFIDENTIAL/LIMDIS.
MATHERON

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